

# NEWS RELEASE

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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***For Immediate Release***

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Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, and Lisa Madigan, Illinois Attorney General, today filed suit against Beverly Farm Foundation, Inc., alleging that it defrauded the government when it was reimbursed after submitting false claims for employee training received between 1998 and 2000.

The foundation operates Beverly Farm, a residential facility housing approximately 400 adults with developmental disabilities at 6301 Humbert Road in Godfrey. The foundation provides and bills for the required training and certification of some Beverly Farm health care workers known as habilitation aides. Such training is eligible for reimbursement by the government.

The four-count complaint, filed today in U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, alleges that Beverly Farm Foundation billed the Medicaid program, funded by the federal and state sources, for training which was not properly provided or supervised. According to Tenpas and Madigan, between 1998 and 2000, the foundation allegedly failed to give the required number of hours of instruction to habilitation aides, failed to complete the training within the required time and failed to properly administer tests.

An investigation by the Illinois State Police Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General revealed, among other violations, that Beverly Farm Foundation submitted the false claims to the Illinois Department of Human Services and that the agency reimbursed the claims with federal and state funds. These acts allegedly violated the Federal False Claims Act and the Illinois Whistleblower Reward and Protection Act.

The complaint seeks civil penalties of between \$5,000 to \$10,000 for each false claim submitted in violation of the Federal False Claims Act and Illinois Whistleblower Reward and Protection Act plus additional compensation of up to three times the amount of each claim. The complaint also seeks damages for the alleged unjust enrichment and fraud counts contained in the complaint.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Liam Coonan and Paralegal Specialist Paul Fairbanks of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Illinois and Assistant Attorney General Bradley Hart of Madigan's Medicaid Fraud Bureau.